

MISTER CHAIRPERSON,

EXCELLENCIES ;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

- Allow me first of all to extend my special thanks to the organizers, especially to Democracy House, for giving me the opportunity to take the floor before you today.

- I am humbled and honoured to discuss with you in my capacity of Chair of UN Democracy Caucus on how the UN Caucus have performed its mandate since the assumption of Mali to its Chairmanship in April 2005.

- The process of informal consultations among members of the UN Caucus have at least one(1) before Mali's Chair. I remember my colleague and friend Heraldo Munos of Chile held a couple of meetings in 2004 in the margin of the UNGA's 59<sup>th</sup> session. The purpose of those meetings was to ensure coordination aimed at tabling joint draft resolutions related to Human rights and democracy issues. Those meetings were also aimed at promoting candidatures of member States to human rights bodies of the UN. The experience was quiet successful.

- But until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies held I Santiago, Chile at the end of April 2005, the initiative of UN Democracy Caucus was guided by National road map of the Chair and by the general commitment of promoting goals and principles of the Community contained in the **Warsaw Declaration of June 2000 and Seoul Plan of Action of November 2002.**

- The decision to formalise a Caucus at the UN and in other multilateral and regional fora was actually **enacted in the Santiago Commitment** adopted by the Ministerial Meeting (Section IV).

- It is meant to reinforce consultation and coordination processes in support democracy and human rights and related issues that are dealt with in those fora.

-To that effect, members States are supposed to establish consultation among themselves in the UNGA and in the ECOSOC.

-The Santiago Commitment also calls on members States to have regular consultations with the NGO's which are interested in the promotion of Democracy in exchange views on the means to support their action.

- The Santiago Document also calls on members States to support UN Democracy fund.

-Members States commit themselves to lend support to each other candidature during elections in UN bodies dealing with human rights.

- On economic and social issues, member States reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of Monterrey Consensus as a mean to attain economic sustainable growth, employment and alleviation of poverty. They decided to mobilize resources in favour of the implementation of the MDG's, including through market oriented policies. They commit to facilitate market access for goods and services as one way to strengthen democratic process. These principles are at the core of the UN agenda in the economic, social and related fields.

- The CoD commit to assist emerging democracies to strengthen their democratic institutions (relation with new and restored democracies ).

These are a set of issues that could be under the consideration of UN Democracy Caucus.

Guided by the afore mentioned commitment, Malian chair submitted a programme of work for the 60<sup>th</sup> session to the consideration of the Caucus. The Caucus adopted it with a few changes.

We have structured our consultation process the last 10 months on this programme of work.

It has contributed to give visibility to the CoD.

We have published the Santiago Document as an official document of the UN. It was translated in all official languages and distributed.

We made joint statements on behalf of the CoD.

The chair sent letters to the PGA when the resolution on Human rights Council was adopted. It did so when the UN Democracy fund was.

It has request the Secretary General to commit a staff for an interactive session on the Found.

The chair has consulted with the NGO's representatives to exchange view on issues of interest and on the way forward.

The chair has organized the coordination ministerial meeting in September 2005 with the contribution of the representative of NGOs.